

REMARKS

This paper is being provided in response to the Office Action mailed May 18, 2005 (Final) for the above-referenced application. Claims 1-16 were pending and all had been rejected. Claim 7 has now been canceled without prejudice to put the claims in condition for Appeal if that should become necessary. No other Claim has been amended. Claims 1-6, 8-16 are now pending upon entry of this Amendment canceling Claim 7. Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application, as amended, is respectfully requested, and in view of the arguments made below

The Examiner has rejected Claim 7 under 35 USC 112. This claim has been canceled thereby rendering this rejection moot.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable for obviousness over U.S. Patent No. 5,948,079 (Tsai) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,529,518 (Webber). Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection should be removed because the Examiner has failed to make a prima facie case of obviousness, which requires three basic criteria that must be met. First, the prior art reference or combination of references must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. Second, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the reference itself or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or combination of references. Third, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. The teaching or suggestion to make the modification and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, not in Applicants' disclosure. Please see MPEP 2143.

Here the first test is clearly not met. Applicant agrees with Examiner that Tsai “fails to teach the step of upon filling the buffer to a predetermined point, waking the internal thread to process the filled buffer, wherein the internal thread writes the contents of the buffer to the storage system, as claimed.” The Examiner incorrectly alleges that the Webber reference teaches “a buffer in a network system (see col. 9, lines 15-19) where upon reach a predetermined point (e.g. ‘one quarter full’) it is emptied.” Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner may have misunderstood Webber’s teachings, points out that what Webber states at the cited location is:

“In order to maximize network utilization, the first requesting adapter may *de-assert its pause request* when its bypass buffer reaches a threshold level, such as one-quarter full, *rather than waiting until its bypass buffer is completely emptied.*” (Emphasis added, Webber Col. 9, lines 15-19).

Webber in fact teaches away from processing a filled buffer and writing the contents of the buffer, instead it merely teaches not waiting on its bypass buffer to empty before de-asserting a pause request. Applicant’s invention on the other hand deals directly with the contents of a buffer by using an internal thread to write the contents of the buffer to a storage system. The combination of Tsai and Webber do not teach or suggest this claimed limitation in Applicant’s Claim 1 and accordingly the first test of a prima facie case of obviousness is not met for Claim 1. Since Claims 2 and 3, both depend from Claim 1 and inherit all of its limitations a prima facie case of obviousness is not met for these claims either under the first test.

Nor are the second and third test met, because without the Claim limitations being taught or suggested by Tsai or Webber there is no motivation to combine the two, nor would there be any reasonable expectation of success at reaching Applicants’ invention on making such a modification because a combination of Webber which teaches de-asserting a pause request with

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Tsai which Examiner agrees does not teach limitations of Applicants' invention could not be expected to yield the limitations discussed with reference to the first test above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the obviousness rejection of Claims 1-3 is unwarranted and removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 4-9 for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Tsai in view of Webber and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,228,083 (Lozowick). Since Claim 7 has been canceled, the rejection is treated as being for 4-6, and 8-9, all of which depend on independent Claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection should be removed because the Examiner has failed to make a prima facie case of obviousness for the reasons made out above with regard to Claim 1. Since there are compelling reasons for removing the rejection of Claim 1, as described above, the rejection of all of its dependent claims, including Claims 4-6 and 8-9 should be removed. Accordingly, Applicant hereby respectfully requests removal of the rejection of Claims 4-6 and 8-9.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 11-16 for obviousness over Tsai in view of Lozowick. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection should be removed because the Examiner has failed to make a prima facie case of obviousness under the three tests from the MPEP cited above. The Examiner has mischaracterized Applicants' claimed invention in Claims 11-16 in the following assertion made by the Examiner at page 6 of the Office Action:

"Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the Tsai et al. reference in order to implement an optimized data processing method for the event of network disconnection, as taught by Lozowick et al.).

This is a mischaracterization because what Applicant claims in Claim 11 does not specify an "optimized data processing method," rendering such references as the Examiner has made to

Tsai's communication optimization for different speeds in data transmission cited by the Examiner as irrelevant and not applicable to Applicants' invention.

Applicants' invention at Claim 11 is directed to a computer system having a plurality of applications (software) in communication with a storage system. In the invention each application software has a process capable of sending and receiving information over a network to and from the plurality of other software applications, and what is provided is a method for providing continuous availability of the network information. When it is recognized that the network between the applications is unavailable, the network information is written to one of the applications to a storage volume on a storage system. Tsai's method for receiving transmission packets and placing into a queue determined by the type of transmission packet has nothing to do with recognizing that a network is unavailable and writing network information into a storage system storage volume then copying such information to another storage volume. In this way the storage system and its storage volumes are used to make network information continuously available. Lozowick's teaching of use of a buffer for storing packets does not in combination with Tsai teach or suggest the method of recognizing that a network is unavailable and in response taking actions involving application software and data storage volumes, wherein the redundancy of data storage volumes is used for continuous availability of network information. Thus the first test of a prima facie case of obviousness is not met. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submitted the obviousness rejection is unwarranted and removal of this rejection and allowance of Applicants' Claim 11 and all of its dependent claims 12-16 is hereby respectfully requested.

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In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of all outstanding objections and rejections.

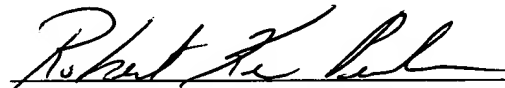
In the event the Examiner deems personal contact desirable in the disposition of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (508) 293-6985.

Please charge all fees occasioned by this submission to Deposit Account No. 05-0889.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: _____

July 8, 2005



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